Cell phone usage while in flight is a bad idea. Other passengers should not be subjected to 4-5 hours of phone conversations all around them. You can hardly escape it anywhere on the ground. Lets at least have some semblance of civilization in the air. We are all trapped there together and the less "tension causing" situations the better.

The usage inflight would also be unsafe. The flight attendants have enough trouble getting people to turn off their computers and get them off their laps before landing. The flight attendants dont need to be phone police as well.

While not a technician,I believe there could be problems caused to navigation of the airplane. I have personally heard pilot transmissions while speaking on a land line pay phone at an airport!

In addition, the wrong people could be using their phones on board for terrorism purposes.